

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 118

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on State Route 109 in Sumner County in honor of Walter T. Durham, Tennessee's State Historian.

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly acknowledges public servants who have made significant contributions to their respective communities and this State by naming a highway or bridge in their honor; and

WHEREAS, Walter T. Durham is one such valuable citizen; he has served with distinction as Tennessee's State Historian since 2002, and he was appointed to another four-year term by Governor Phil Bredesen in January 2011; and

WHEREAS, an admired and respected figure in Tennessee historical circles, Mr. Durham has served as president of the Tennessee Historical Society; founding president of the Tennessee Preservation Trust; a member of the Tennessee American Revolution Bicentennial Commission; a delegate to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services; president of the Sumner County Historical Society; co-chair of the Tennessee Archives Summit; and chair of Gallatin's Bicentennial Celebration Committee; and

WHEREAS, an award-winning author of seventeen books, Mr. Durham also served for ten years as a member and chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission and a member of the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board and has served on numerous non-profit boards of directors; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Durham has received the Tennessee History Book Award, the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History, and was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Preservation Trust; and

WHEREAS, as State Historian, Mr. Durham has excelled in his statutory duty “to prepare for publication and to disseminate historical data upon Tennessee history, past and present”; and

WHEREAS, he has published a study of the state’s historical agencies and their activities; the study included *A Directory of Tennessee Agencies, Governmental and Non Governmental Bringing State and Local History to the Public, 2004*, and a report, *The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004*; and

WHEREAS, he then produced the follow-up report, *The State of State History in Tennessee In 2006*; and

WHEREAS, these publications represent the first attempt to assemble such a comprehensive directory and to discuss the state of state history in Tennessee; through this project, Mr. Durham has established a benchmark for future cooperation and planning in the field; and

WHEREAS, Walter T. Durham serves as a torchbearer for the preservation, publication, and dissemination of Tennessee state history, and his outstanding work as State Historian should be appropriately recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the new bridge spanning the Cumberland River on State Route 109 south of Gallatin in Sumner County is hereby designated the "Walter T. Durham Bridge" in honor of a gentleman who has proven his love of and loyalty to the State of Tennessee during his tenure as State Historian.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in the first resolving clause as the "Walter T. Durham Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation.